

If you have questions or problems,
CONTACT US:
FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN



1-877-846-1602

(It's a free call!)

e-mail



fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov

Remember:

What you tell us is private
(except in certain circumstances).

The Office of the State Ombudsman wishes to thank the Los Angeles Affiliate of the National Association of Counsel for Children for their pioneering efforts to inform youth of their rights in the juvenile system.

If you feel you are being discriminated against because of, but not limited to, your sex, race, color, religion, or for any other reason, please contact the Foster Care Ombudsman Help-line.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gray Davis, Governor

**HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES AGENCY**

Grantland Johnson, Secretary

**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

Rita Saenz, Director



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Foster Care Ombudsman
744 P Street, MS 9-025
Sacramento, CA 95814

You have RIGHTS too!



This brochure is for youth
in out-of-home care.
It explains your rights!

The law* says:

You have rights if you live in foster homes, group homes, shelters, or transitional housing programs. The law also says social workers, probation officers and people where you live must tell you about your rights.

This law also says:

- Your social worker must talk with you about your rights at least once every 6 months;
- You must be told about your rights in a way that's easy to understand;
- The people where you live must answer any questions you have about your rights;
- If 6 or more foster youth can live in your foster home, the Foster Care Ombudsman will send your home a poster that lists your rights. They must put this poster in a place where you can see it. The poster has the Ombudsman telephone number on it.

Call if you think your rights are not followed – it's a free call and it won't show up on the phone bill!

1-877-846-1602

Write important info here:

Foster Care Ombudsman 1-877-846-1602

Your Social Worker (phone) _____

(Name) _____

Your Probation Officer (phone) _____

(Name) _____

Your Lawyer (phone) _____

(Name) _____

Who can help me if my rights are not followed?

Call the Foster Care Ombudsman:

Their job is to help youth with problems or questions. They can also tell you who your lawyer, social worker or probation officer is.

Call us:

1-877-846-1602

It's a free call!

Email:

fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov

**Write us: Foster Care Ombudsman
744 P Street, M.S. 9-025
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Or, fill out the “Complaint Page” on our website. It's easy to do!

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov

Call your lawyer:

Every youth has a lawyer (unless a judge says you cannot). You can talk to your lawyer in private. You can tell your lawyer anything you want. Most of the time, your lawyer cannot tell anyone else what you say (except in special situations; ask your lawyer about this.)

Your lawyer's job is to defend all your rights. Your lawyer can help you with:

- visits with your brothers, sisters and parents
- questions about court or your case plan
- problems with your social worker

Call your Social Worker or Probation Officer:

Their job is to make sure all your needs get taken care of.

Remember, you have the right to:

- know their name and phone number
- ask for their help
- have them call you back

Call CCL:

CCL (Community Care Licensing) gives the home you live in a license. You can call CCL if your home is not a healthy and safe place. You can call in private. CCL will not tell your home you called.

Call the Foster Care Ombudsman to get the CCL phone number.

Problems with your lawyer or social worker?

Ask for the name and telephone number of his/her supervisor. Call the supervisor and make a complaint.

